

Message Text

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SUBJECT: GEISEL VISIT TO FRANCE - FIRST IMPRESSIONS

1. BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT ERNESTO GEISEL RETURNED TO BRAZIL MORNING APRIL 28, AFTER A FORTY-EIGHT HOUR STATE VISIT TO FRANCE. THERE WERE FEW SURPRISES DURING THE VISIT. EACH SECTOR OF THE FRENCH ESTABLISHMENT INTERPRETED THE VISIT TO ITS BEST ADVANTAGE WITH VIRTUALLY EVERY PARTY BELIEVING IT HAD ADE POINTS.

2. THE LEFT OPPOSED THE VISIT IN PROTEST AGAINST THE BRAZILIAN REGIME'S ABUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE FAR LEFT (MAOIST, TROTSKYITE, ETC.) MADE A TOKEN EFFORT AT DEMONSTRATING, WISELY CHOOSING SITES AWAY FROM THE OFFICIAL PARTIES (BRAZILIAN EMBASSY, UNIVERSITY AREA, TRIANON PALACE THE DAY BEFORE GEISEL'S ARRIVAL) AND RETREATING PROMPTLY BEFORE DETERMINED POLICE MEASURES. THEIR PAPERS HERALDED THEIR EFFORTS, THE MASS PRESS MADE PASSING MENTION OF THEM AND THEY SCORED POINTS AMONGST THEIR FOLLOWERS. AS AN INDICATION OF ITS BASIC CAUTION, THE FAR LEFT PLANNED ITS BIG ANTI-BRAZILIAN MEETING FOR THE EVENING OF APRIL 28, AFTER GEISEL'S DEPARTURE WHEN THERE WOULD BE LITTLE OFFICIAL CONCERN FOR WHAT MIGHT BE SAID OR PLANNED.

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3. THE MORE MODERATE FELT, INCLUDING THE COMMUNISTS, SCORED POINTS BY GAINING WIDE SUPPORT, PARTICULARLY FROM FRENCH CLERGY, FOR ITS PROTEST CAMPAIGN. BEFORE THE VISIT, THE RESPECTED LE MONDE CARRIED VIRTUALLY NOTHING BUT ATTACKS ON THE VISIT AND VISITOR FROM BISHOPS AND "COMMITTEES" AND STRESSED THE PROTEST ASPECT OF THE VISIT IN ITS REPORTING. HOWEVER, EXCEPT FOR A BOYCOTT OF THE CITY HALL RECEPTION FOR GEISEL BY PCF AND SOCIALIST PARTY MEMBERS, THE MODERATE LEFT LIMITED ITS PROTEST TO WORDS.

4. THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, WHILE GIVING PASSING ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BRAZIL, STRESSED THE BENEFITS CLOSER BUSINESS TIES WITH BRAZIL COULD HOLD FOR FRANCE. LE FIGARO PUBLISHED THREE FULL PAGES OF A GENERALLY FAVORABLE STUDY ON BRAZIL ON THE EVE OF GEISEL'S VISIT. IF SOME OF THE DISCUSSED AGREEMENTS ARE SIGNED, FRENCH FIRMS WILL OBTAIN SOME IMPORTANT CONTRACTS.

5. THE GOF, IN ITS TURN, DODGED THE MORAL ISSUE BY NOTING THAT THE LABOR GOVERNMENT OF THE U.K. HAD SIMILARLY INVITED GEISEL FOR EARLY MAY. IT THEN PROCEEDED TO KEEP HIM OUT OF HARM'S WAY THROUGH LAVISH STATE CEREMONIES OUTSIDE PARIS IN VERSAILLES. IT PUBLICLY STRESSED THE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES OF COMMERCIAL ACCORDS BEING WORKED OUT.

6. IF THE BRAZILIAN GOAL WAS TO HIGHLIGHT ITS INDEPENDENT STATUS FOR THE HOME AUDIENCE AND THIRD WORLD TO SEE, THEN BRAZIL ALSO PROBABLY SCORED SOME POINTS. WE WOULD GUESS AFRICANS AND ASIANS WHO MAY HAVE FOLLOWED THE VISIT WILL BE MORE IMPRESSED WITH THE FRENCH COURTSHIP OF BRAZIL THAN THE EDITORIAL CRITICISM OF ITS GOVERNING METHODS. BRAZILIANS AT HOME WILL ALSO BE IMPRESSED BY SCENES OF THE CHAMPS-ELYSEES DECKED ITS ENTIRE LENGTH WITH FRENCH AND BRAZILIAN FLAGS AND OF THE COLORFUL APPEARANCE WITH WHICH GEISEL WAS HONORED.

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7. WE WILL FORWARD DETAILS OF ACTUAL AGREEMENTS WHEN WE HAVE THE FULL COMMUNIQUE AND HAVE CHECKED WITH QUAI SOURCES. THE BRAZILIAN MINISTERS OF PLANNING AND OF MINES AND ENERGY ARE REMAINING IN PARIS UNTIL FRIDAY AND WE EXPECT MORE DETAILS ON AGREEMENTS TO EMERGE WHEN THEY LEAVE. EVIDENTLY COOPERATION ON HYDROELECTRIC, PETRO CHEMICAL, PORT EQUIPMENT, RAIL AND AIR TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT,

AIRCRAFT CONSTRUCTION, PETROLEUM AND SOLAR ENERGY
RESEARCH, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MECHANICAL, STEEL AND
INFORMATION SYSTEMS PROJECTS ARE UNDER STUDY.
RUSH

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